



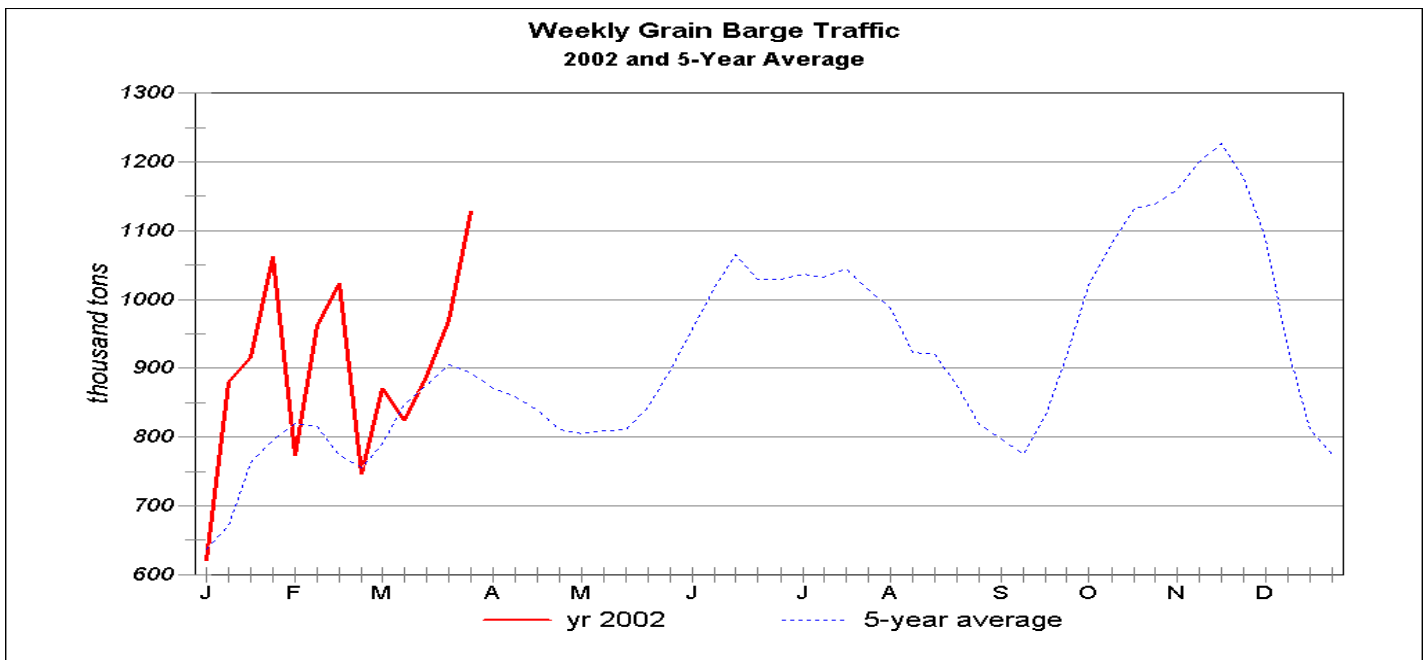
## GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



APRIL 2, 2002

**Above Average First Quarter Barge Grain Shipments.** First quarter barge grain movements averaged 897 thousand tons per week, 15 percent higher than the 5-year average. During the last week of March (24-30), barge grain traffic reached levels that typically occur much later in the year (see chart below).



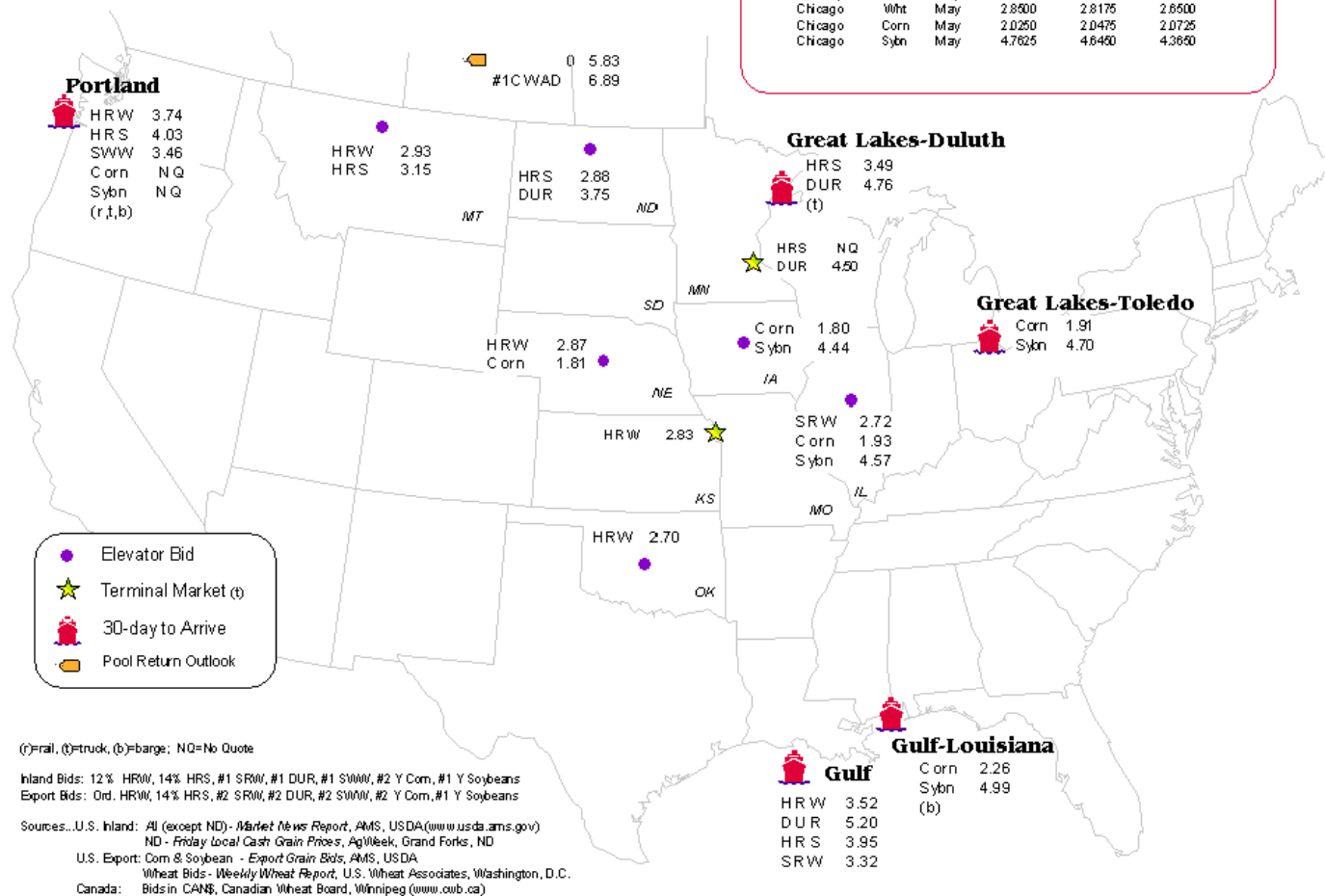
Barge shippers have indicated that there may be several factors accounting for the increase in grain shipments. Relatively low freight rates and an early opening of the river have created favorable conditions for early and continuous barge movements of export grain. Barge shipments are above last year's levels when flooding closed portions of the upper Mississippi River. Year-to-date corn exports at the Mississippi Gulf are up 20 percent as compared to last year. Soybean exports are also up for the Mississippi Gulf, with a 13 percent increase of year-to-date exports as compared to last year.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Data.** Grain barge shipments, which are regularly reported on page 5, are monitored by USDA from lock reports provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The collective downbound data from Mississippi River Locks 27, Ohio River Locks 52, and Norrell Lock on the Arkansas River are considered to be the total volume of barged grain since each lock is the last or second to last one in its respective river. It should be noted that grain originating on the Mississippi River below Locks 27 is not recorded by the Corps reporting system and, thus, the report may underestimate total barge movements. The Corps' data can be found at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrimi/omni/webrpts/default.htm>. Lock conditions, tow performance, vessel locations, and queued vessels can also be found at the Web site, which is implemented by the Information Management Integration and Implementation Branch of the Rock Island District, Mississippi River Division. (These articles were contributed by Nick Marathon, USDA, Transportation Services Program, [Nick.Marathon@usda.gov](mailto:Nick.Marathon@usda.gov) ).

Report is prepared by Sigal Nissan, Economist, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [Sigal.Nissan@usda.gov](mailto:Sigal.Nissan@usda.gov).

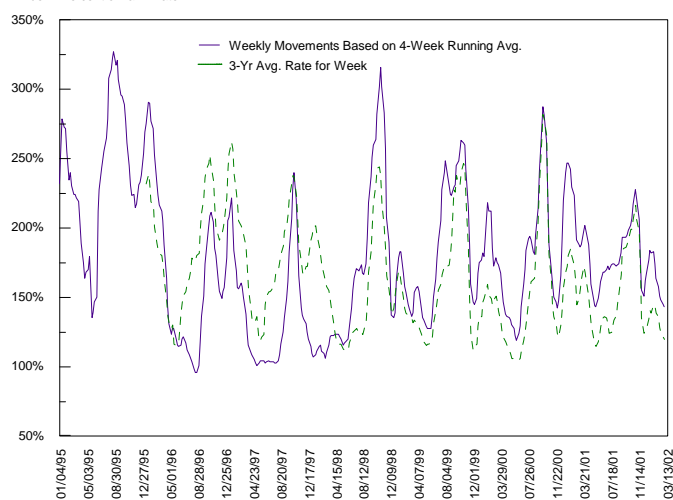
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## Grain Bid Summary

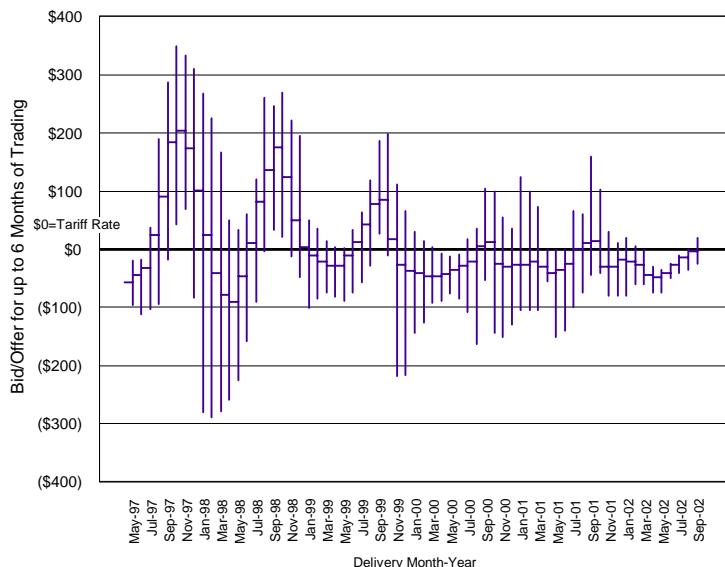


## Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate



## Secondary Rail Market Bids



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	May-02		June-02	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	12,735	7%	11,820	5%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	2%	5,400	0%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

### Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02	Jul-02
BNSF-GF	\$(22)	\$(32)	\$(20)	\$(4)
UP-Pool	\$(30)	\$(35)	\$(36)	\$(23)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

### Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	May-02	Jun-02	Jul-02
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	no offer
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	no offer

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com), (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

### Southbound Barge Freight Nominal/Cash Basis Values

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate	
			Futures	Cash
03/22/02	St. Louis	Apr	0	220
		Jun	0	230
		Aug	0	255
		Oct	0	305
		Dec	0	0
	Illinois River	Apr	0	235
		Jun	0	245
		Aug	0	275
		Oct	0	325
		Dec	0	0

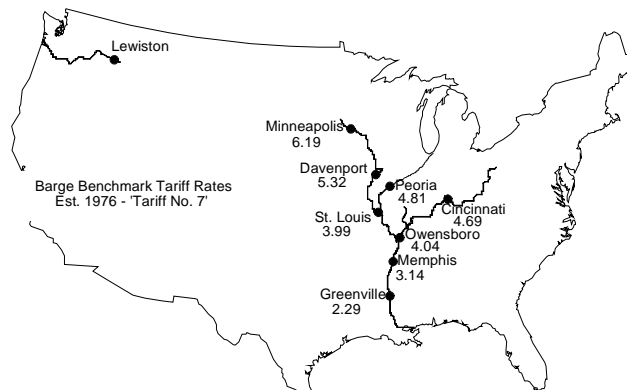
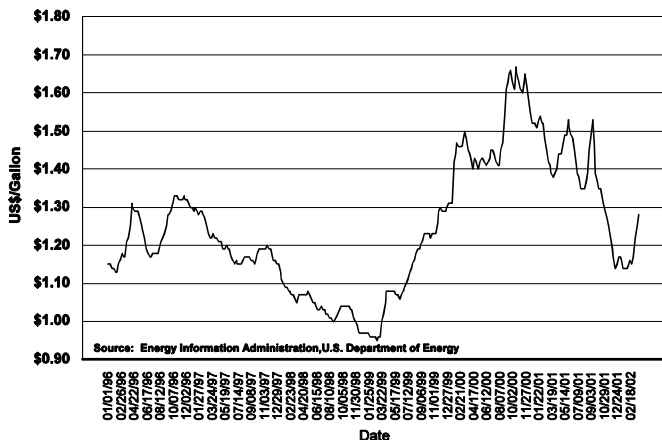
Source: St. Louis Merchants Exchange

### Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	3/27/02	3/20/02	Apr '02	Jun '02
Twin Cities	173	175	174	184
Mid-Mississippi	146	149	146	155
Illinois River	129	134	132	140
St. Louis	109	113	112	121
Lower Ohio	120	123	118	128
Cairo-Memphis	108	109	109	113

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
nq=no quote;

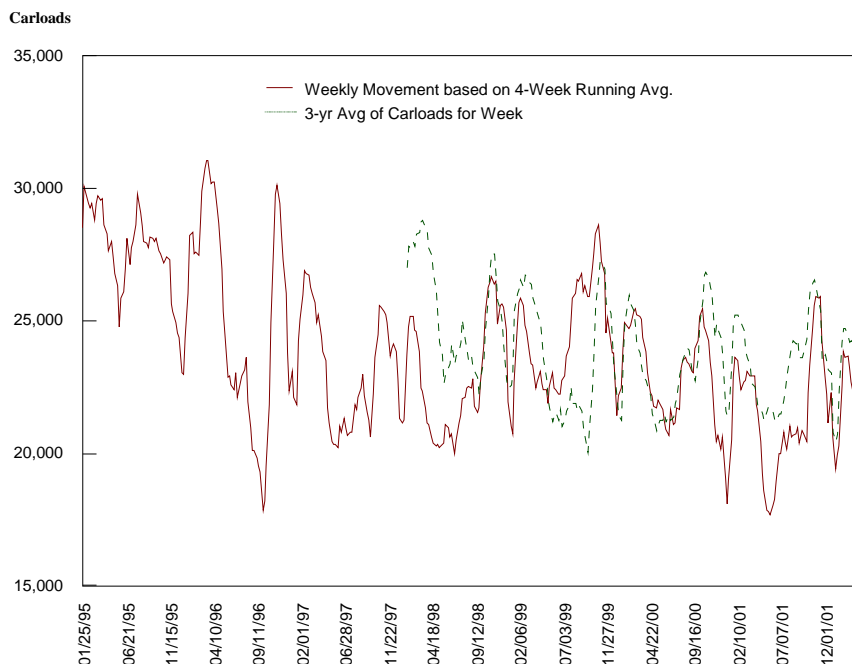
### Weekly Retail Diesel (Road) Prices (Including Taxes)



## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
3/9/02	20,480
03/16/02	21,478
03/23/02	20,260
Year to Date - 2002	266,731
Year to Date - 2001	272,879
Total 2001	1,117,601
Total 2000	1,188,917

Source: Association of American Railroads



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Grain Carloads Originated

Train Carloads Originated									
			East		West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
03/23/02	0	2,789	0	3,390	7,043	505	6,533	3,726	3,639
This Week Last Year	0	2,783	0	2,896	8,958	515	6,886	4,594	4,042
2002 YTD	0	36,606	0	38,141	98,273	7,905	81,651	47,123	44,888
2001 YTD	0	40,797	0	37,984	108,331	5,870	79,897	57,640	57,345
2001 Total	0	151,864	0	163,018	428,603	26,330	347,156	254,982	232,461
2000 Total	0	147,708	70,155	153,905	425,849	26,515	364,785	160,749	239,670

Source: Association of American Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

March 2002

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
03/04/02	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
03/04/02	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
03/04/02	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,650	\$18.19	\$0.50
03/04/02	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,347	\$47.92	\$1.30
03/04/02	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,005	\$44.15	\$1.20
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
03/04/02	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
03/04/02	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

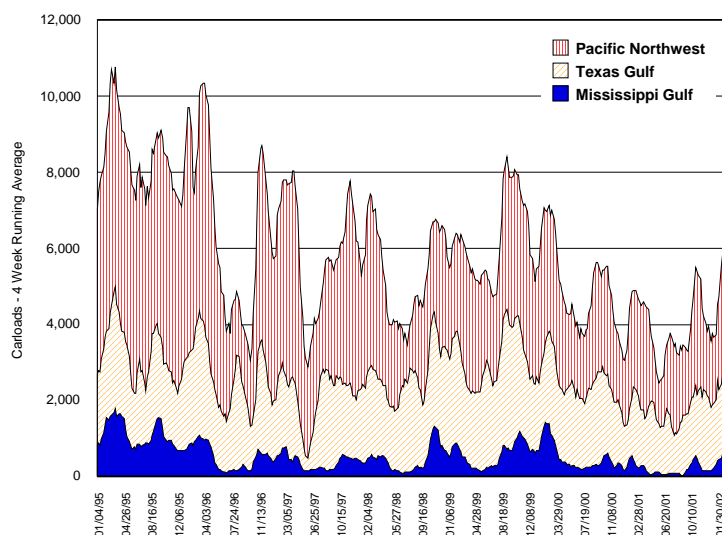
Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

**Rail Deliveries to Port****Carloads**

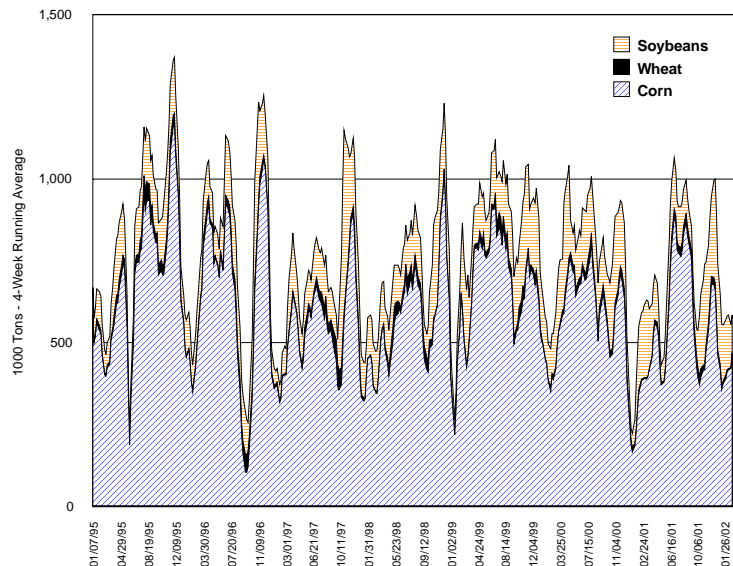
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
02/20/02	758*	2,058	2,523	603
02/27/02	609*	2,165	2,518	875
03/06/02	300*	2,200	2,518	380
03/13/02	264*	1,748	1,864	349
03/20/02	134*	2,099	1,984	279
03/27/02	101*	2,341	2,073	236
YTD 2002	4,745*	24,435	29,386	7,993
YTD 2001	4,089	18,189	30,378	10,779
Total 2001	10,022	81,804	111,376	26,604
Total 2000	25,767	104,473	128,414	14,816

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA

**Rail Deliveries to Port**

(\*) Incomplete Data

(\*\*) Identical figures are correct

**Barge Movements - Locks 27****Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 3/16/02

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	173	0	39	212
Winfield, MO (L25)	285	0	145	430
Alton, IL (L26)	598	5	172	781
Granite City, IL (L27)	615	5	166	792
Illinois River (L8)	288	6	39	339
Ohio (L52)	99	4	40	149
Arkansas (L1)	0	18	10	28
2002 YTD	6,911	423	2,702	10,536
2001 YTD	5,668	477	2,810	9,605
Total 2001	31,878	2,679	10,616	47,091
Total 2000	33,482	2,518	10,327	48,247

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; L15 &amp; L25 closed for winter.

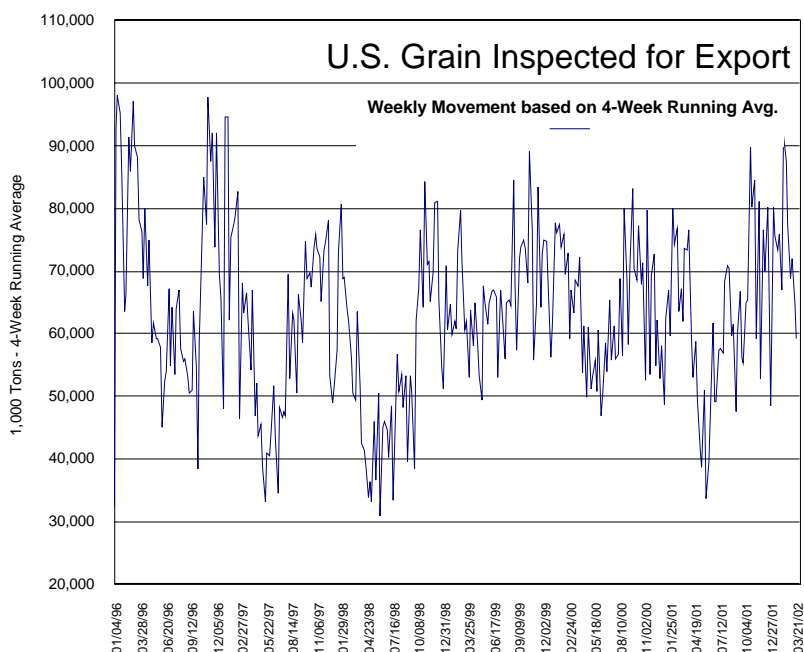
**U.S. Export Balances** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	Wheat <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	Corn	Soybean	Total
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
03/21/02	1,383	889	776	457	141	3,646	7,339	3,156	14,141
This Week Year Ago	1,182	471	1,092	859	275	3,878	6,439	3,453	13,770
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
01/02 YTD	6,985	4,533	4,499	2,616	1,006	19,639	24,831	22,585	67,055
00/01 YTD	7,626	3,676	4,523	4,136	905	20,866	25,448	17,713	64,027
99/00 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
98/99 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov)) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

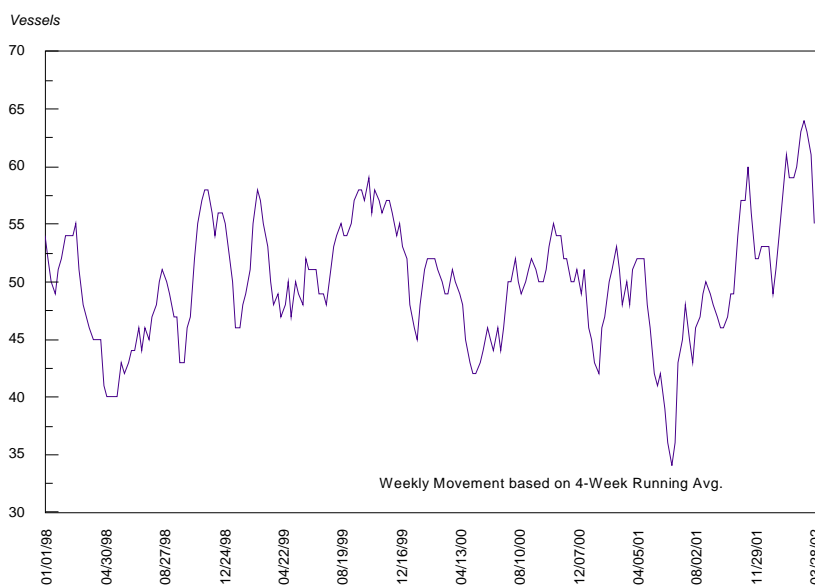
	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
03/28/02	117	96	26	108	796	236	120	10	39
2002 YTD	2,167	1,185	835	1,305	8,121	6,475	1,369	53	643
2001 YTD	2,176	1,066	930	1,189	6,582	5,559	1,200	130	618
% of Last Year	22%	20%	49%	19%	23%	36%	20%	11%	64%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**  
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 03/07/02			
Vancouver	4,323	266	390
Prince Rupert	888	0	0
Prairie Direct	365	303	257
Thunder Bay	294	191	45
St. Lawrence	2,436	1,391	0
2001 YTD Exports	8,306	2,151	692
2000 YTD Exports	8,228	2,059	1,197
% of Last Year	101%	104%	58%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission, Crop year 8/1-7/31



**Gulf Region  
Vessels Loaded  
- Past 7 Days-**

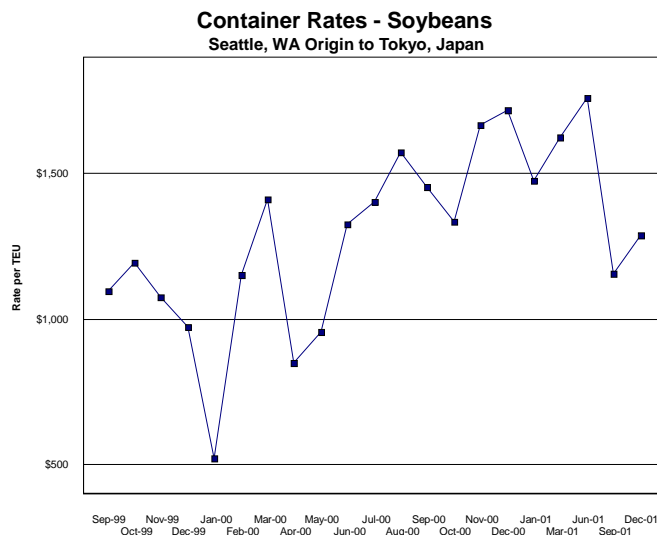
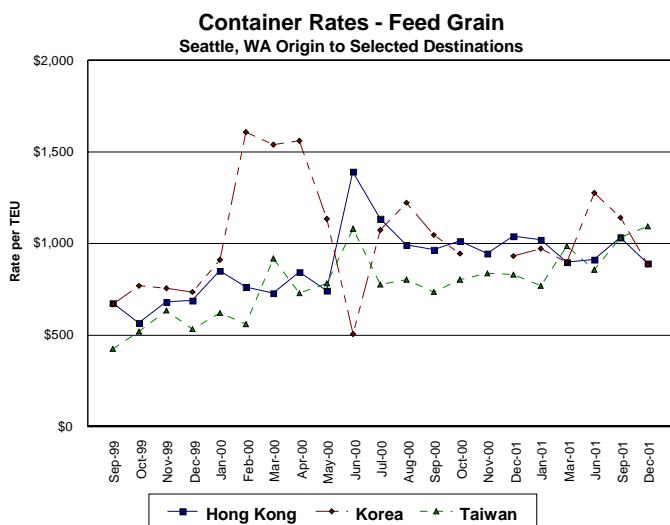
### Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
03/21/02	36	55	59	8	4		8	7	4
03/28/02	31	45	58	6	4		2	7	4
2001 Range	(13..65)	(28..64)	(46..81)	(1..18)			(4..20)	(3..14)	(0..7)
2000 Range	(23..50)	(34..57)	(47..83)	(4..15)			(4..20)	(5..19)	(0..9)
2001 Avg	36	48	63				12	8	3
2000 Avg	36	49	65				11	9	3
1999 Avg	32	52	65				10	9	3

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

### Container Ocean Freight Rates

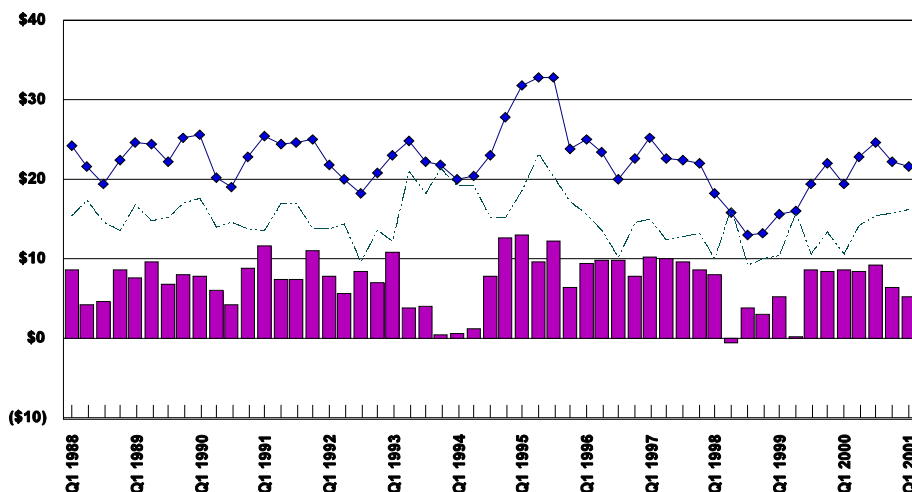
Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

◆ Rate - Gulf to Japan  
 --- Rate - PNW to Japan  
 ■ Spread - Gulf vs. PNW to Japan

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean  
 Freight Rates

### Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	2001 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	2000 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change		2001 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	2000 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$16.25	\$22.38	-27%	Japan	\$9.64	\$15.87	-39%
Mexico		\$13.39	-	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$26.70	-
Venezuela		\$13.29	-				
N. Europe	\$11.73	\$14.96	-22%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$16.98	\$22.26	-24%	Med. Sea	\$17.47		-
Med. Sea	\$10.58	\$15.19	-30%	N. Europe	\$16.22	\$18.97	-14%
				Japan	\$26.33		-

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (\*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton)

### Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 3/30/02

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Egypt	Wheat	Apr 5/10	8,380	\$53.10
New Orleans	UK/Continent	Grains	Apr 1/10	20,000	\$13.65
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Apr 1/10	50,000	\$11.65
Texas	Lagos, Nigeria	Wheat	Mar 24/Apr 3	25,000	\$16.25
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Apr 10/20	54,000	\$18.75
N. Pacific	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Apr 20/30	55,000	\$10.75
Paranagua, Brazil	N. France	Soybean Pellets	Mar 28/31	25,000	\$16.00
Black Sea, Russia	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Barley	Apr 3/8	55,000	\$14.75

Source: Maritime Research Inc.; rates shown are for long ton (2,240 lbs.=one long ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated; op=option